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A New Species of the Genus *Molorchus* (Coleoptera,
Cerambycidae) from Central Japan

With 2 Text-figures

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ABSTRACT *Molorchus nitidus* n. sp. (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) is described on the basis of 36 specimens (18 males and 18 females) collected at the central part of Honshû (Niigata and Nagano Prefs.). This new species is distinguished from other members of the genus by its shiny, concolorous body and elongated pronotum and elytra.

***Molorchus nitidus* n. sp.**

Male. Form slender; body black, antennae, elytra and legs very dark brown, almost concolorous, shining. Thinly clothed with long, erect, pale hairs. Head coarsely punctate; front with a pair of longitudinal striae near the lateral edge along the eyes, somewhat indented, sparingly punctured and shining. Antennae eleven-segmented, exceeding the body by less than three segments; eleventh segment partially divided at about apical fourth; scape to third segment coarsely punctate, shining; 4th to 11th mat. Pronotum much longer than broad (ratio 6:4), sides subparallel except a pair of distinct lateral tubercles; surface coarsely, sparingly and irregularly punctate, clothed with long, pale-yellow hairs; discal calluses indistinct; scutellum finely punctured and pubescent. Elytra about 1.7 times as long as the basal width, disc less coarsely punctured than in pronotum, clothed with long, erect, pale pubescence at basal half; apices narrowly rounded. Femora sparsely punctate, clothed with erect hairs, shining; gradually clavate over apical halves; ventral edges of meso- and metatibiae conspicuously dentate. Abdomen thinly clothed with long erect hairs. Length: 5.6–7.4 mm. Breadth: 1.1–1.4 mm.

Individual variation: Coloration of mouthparts, antennae, elytra and legs varies from brown to black. Apical segment of antennae sometimes completely divided (12-segmented), partially divided or undivided (11-segmented); tip simple or only feebly appendiculate. In some specimens, a small median and a pair of lateral polished discal calluses are present in pronotum.

Female. Integument black; mouthparts, antennae, elytra, legs dark brown to

black, concolorous. Antennae 11-segmented, shorter than body only attaining to the apex of third abdominal segment; scape to third segment shining, 4th to 11th mat. Pronotal disc furnished with a median polished calluse on the basal half. Length: 6.0–7.4 mm. Breadth: 1.1–1.4 mm.

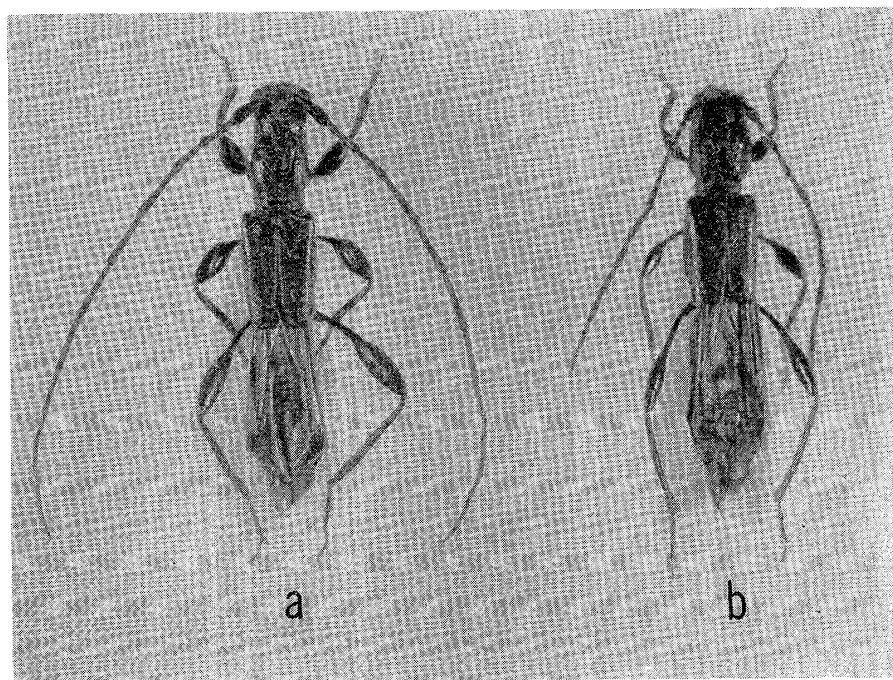


Fig. 1. *Molorchus nitidus* n. sp.; a, male; b, female.

Type-series. Holotype, ♂, Kuzuha Pass, Itoigawa City, Niigata Pref., May 5, 1969, collected by H. Hayakawa. Paratypes: 3♂, 3♀, same locality as the holotype, May 3–5, 1969, collected by H. Hayakawa; 11♂, 7♀, same locality as above, May 1, 1968, collected by K. Hori; 1♂, 1♀, same locality as above, May 4, 1968, collected by M. Takakuwa; 1♀, Takatoh, Kamiina-gun, Nagano Pref., May 16, 1970, collected by H. Hayakawa; 1♂, 1♀, same locality as above, May 11, 1972, collected by K. Hori; 1♂, 1♀, Hase, Kamiina-gun, Nagano Pref., May 12, 1972, collected by H. Hayakawa. The holotype and paratypes are deposited in the National Science Museum, Tokyo. Paratypes are also in the collectors' and the author's private collections.

This new species is distinguished from the allied species of this genus by its slender form, longer elytra and shiny, concolorous body. It somewhat resembles in coloration *M. gracilis* (Hayashi, 1949) and *M. fuscipennis* (Hayashi, 1963) which is closely related to the former species, but is readily distinguished by its indented front and antennal structure. It also differs from them in having distinct lateral pronotal tubercles. Morphologically, it is related to *M. kojimai* (Matsushita, 1939) but is much more slender. The calluses on the pronotal disc of the male are far

less developed, and the ventral edges of meso- and metatibiae are more strongly dentate in the present species. The larvae of this species feed on *Celtis jessoensis* (Hayakawa, personal communication).

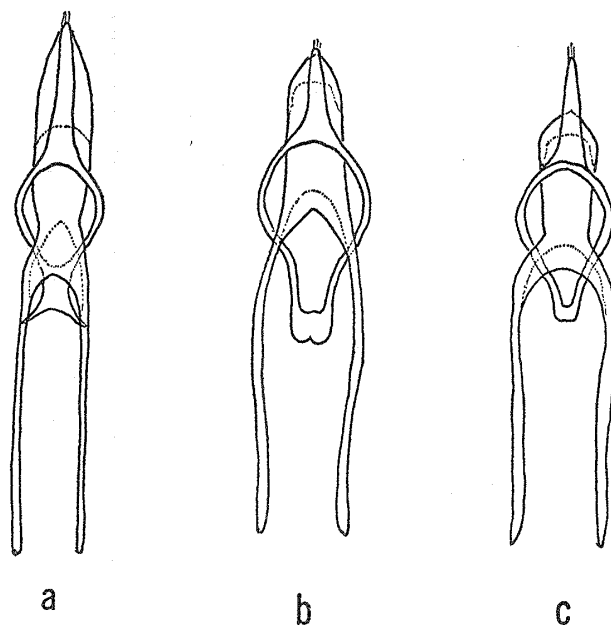


Fig. 2. Male genitalia; a, *Molorchus nitidus*; b, *M. gracilis*; c, *M. kojimai*.

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